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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 12, 2011**

**HECB to continue discussions on Strategic Master Plan update at PLU May 19**

**OLYMPIA** – The Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) will continue to focus on updating the state’s Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education at its regularly scheduled meeting Thursday, May 19, 2011, on the campus of Pacific Lutheran University. The HECB is required to update the strategic plan every four years.

In its second meeting this year with key stakeholders, the Board will hear morning presentations from Loren Andersen, president of Pacific Lutheran University, and Vi Boyer, president and CEO of the Independent Colleges of Washington (ICW).

Anderson and Boyer will discuss the role of independent colleges and universities in achieving the state’s higher education goals. Independent colleges and universities produce nearly 25 percent of Washington’s degrees annually.

A recent HECB report on statewide transfer patterns found that students at the state’s two-year colleges are transferring to the independent colleges and universities in much greater numbers, in part because there is not enough transfer capacity at the state’s four-year public universities.

In the afternoon, policy and planning briefings by HECB staff will focus on other key strategic planning priorities. Staff will review highlights of the 2011 Regional Needs Assessment report, which forecasts the most rapidly growing employment fields in Washington through 2018, and the types of degrees that will be needed to meet that workforce demand.

In addition, HECB staff will present the results of the state’s first baccalaureate follow-up study, which followed baccalaureate degree graduates to determine the extent to which they were able to secure employment in Washington or continue their education.

Tina Loudon, Director of Western Washington University’s Academic & Career Development Services, and Aaron Ignac, WWU Assistant Director of Operations, Career Services Center, will join the staff presentation.

In conclusion, Jan Ignash, deputy director for policy, planning and research, will present on “Implementing System Design: Test Case.” The state’s System Design Plan, developed by the HECB and adopted as state law in 2010, calls for expanding the higher education system based upon documented demand.

Ignash will report on an analysis of the current and future degree production needs in the Skagit/Island/Snohomish region. Heavily populated areas like Snohomish County that do not have a resident four-year university figure prominently in system design planning.

In developing the system design plan, the HECB found that not enough capacity exists within the existing institutions to either meet the 2018 degree production targets set in the *Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education*, or accommodate forecast population growth to 2030.

Briefing materials for the meeting are available at: [www.hecb.wa.gov/boardmtgs/index.asp](http://www.hecb.wa.gov/boardmtgs/index.asp)

**Who: Higher Education Coordinating Board**

**What: Regular Meeting – May 19, 2011**

**Where: Pacific Lutheran University  
Regency Room, University Center  
12180 Park Ave S, Tacoma WA 98447**

**9:00 a.m. Welcome and Introductions**

- **Earl Hale, Vice Chair, Higher Education Coordinating Board**
- **Loren Anderson, President, Pacific Lutheran University**

**9:10 a.m. Consent Agenda**

**Approval of March Meeting Minutes**

**New Degree Programs for Approval**

- **UW Bothell Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing and Poetics**
- **UW Seattle Master of Science in Computational Finance and Risk Management**
- **WSU Master of Arts and PhD in Prevention Science**

**9:15 a.m. Report of Executive Director**

Don Bennett, HECB executive director, will provide an overview of the meeting agenda and will discuss key Board and staff activities occurring since the Board's March 31 meeting.

**Action: Proposed Changes to Communication Requirement in the Direct Transfer (DTA) Agreement**

A proposal to clarify the communication requirement of the Direct Transfer Agreement, and to align the requirement with current course credit practices was reviewed by higher education stakeholders with approval by the baccalaureate institutions in Fall 2010; it was reviewed and approved by the two-year system in Spring 2011. The proposal has been forwarded to the HECB for final approval and system adoption.

**9:30 a.m. Update on Legislative Session and Budget Status**  
Staff will provide the Board with an update of higher education legislation and budget status.

- Summary of higher education policy legislation.
- Higher education budget status.

**10:30 a.m. Strategic Master Plan Update - Work Session**

**Overview**

Don Bennett will provide a quick review of the scope of the master plan update - major goals and objectives – and describe the update process and timeline.

**General Discussion**

The Board and stakeholders will discuss how independent colleges contribute to the state's strategic goals, objectives and strategies.

- Loren Andersen, President, Pacific Lutheran University
- Vi Boyer, President and CEO, Independent Colleges of Washington (ICW)

**Noon The Board will recess for a working lunch.**

**1 p.m. Afternoon Session: Master Plan Update–Policy Planning Briefings**

**Regional Needs Analysis Report 2011**

The Regional Analysis divides the state into eight regions and identifies employer demand in each region based on forecasted new and replacement job openings between 2010 and 2020.

**1:45 p.m. Baccalaureate Follow-Up Report**

This study followed bachelor's degree graduates to determine the extent to which they were able to secure employment in Washington or continue their education.

**2:45 p.m. Implementing System Design: Test Case**

This analysis describes the current and future degree production needs in the Skagit/Island/Snohomish region.

**3:30 p.m. Adjournment**

***Public Comment:** A sign-in sheet is provided for public comment on any of the Board items.*

***Meeting Accommodation:** Persons who require special accommodation for attendance must call the HECB at 360-753-7800 as soon as possible before the meeting.*

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